

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

May 2, 2006

The Honorable William Frist, M.D.
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Dr. Frist:

Nearly a year ago, the House of Representatives approved important legislation to end the restrictions that have kept stem cell research from fulfilling its potential to save lives and alleviate suffering. We understand that you are planning a week of Senate debate on legislation related to health. We urge you to bring the Stem Cell Research Enhancement Act of 2005 (H.R. 810) to the Senate floor for consideration during this "Health Week".

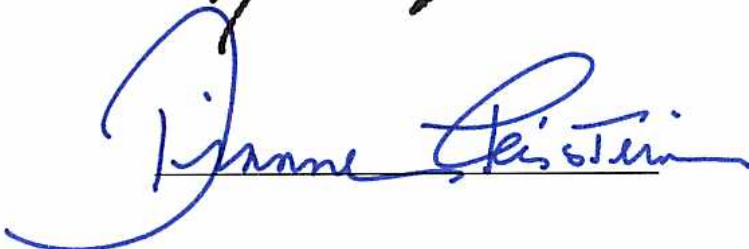
Stem cell research has vast potential for curing diseases and saving lives. We know you recognize the enormous potential of this research for discovering new cures and therapies for diseases such as diabetes, Parkinson's disease and spinal cord injuries, and we commend the strong support you have expressed for approval of the House-passed bill. By allowing H.R. 810 to be brought to a vote, you can bring hope and help to millions of American patients and families suffering from these and other serious illnesses.

The House passed H.R. 810 in May 2005 – yet the Senate has failed to take action for nearly a year. Further delay will mean more lost opportunities for new cures and new treatments. The Senate should mark the anniversary of the House vote with action, not more inaction. We therefore urge you to bring H.R. 810 to the Senate floor for debate and a vote during "Health Week". Millions of patients and their families across the nation cannot afford to wait any longer for enactment of this urgently needed legislation.

Sincerely,


Harry Reid


Tom Harkin


Dianne Feinstein


Ted Kennedy

Jim Hill

Bill Nelson

Samuel Dine

Maria Carls

Almy

Mary Gaudin

Jack Reed

Mr. Zin

Tom Carg

Mr. Bowers

Mr. Fiegel

Robert Menendez

Herb Kohl

Chuck Schumer

Paul Sarbanes

Byron D. Sanders

Frank R. Lautenberg

Ed Johnson

Rebbie Steiner

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Jim Jeffords

Ken Salazar

Robert A. Minkoff

Joe Biden

Erin Boyle

Patrick Leahy

Paul Shier

Mark Dayton

Dick Durbin

Blanche L. Lincoln

Samuel Alito

Ron Wyden